

**BACKGROUND ON IMPLEMENTATION OF MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT FOR  
EXCAVATIONS AT  
VA LONG BEACH HEALTHCARE SYSTEM**

VA Long Beach Healthcare System (VALBHS) has determined that all facility improvements, by excavations and new construction, will have unavoidable adverse effects on part of the Puvungna Indian Village District, a property included in the National Register of Historical Places (NRHP). The archeological sites that are collectively designated as the Puvungna Indian Village District (hereinafter Puvungna) extends throughout VALBHS facility. Archeological test excavations have indicated that human skeletal remains and burial sites extend throughout the VALBHS campus.

Under the regulations implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (35CFR Part 800), federal agencies are required to consult with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHIPO) and federally recognized Indian tribes, to seek agreement on ways to resolve adverse effects on historic properties. VALBHS has developed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) pursuant to 36CFR 800.6(b)(2), intended to outline the activities that VA will ensure are carried out to resolve its adverse effects on Puvungna. The MOA, Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) Plan of Action (POA, Appendix B) and Historic Property Treatment Plan (HPTP, Attachment C) have been agreed to and will guide the implementation of Section 106 during construction.

During construction any excavation below 6-inches of the ground surface extending up to 20 feet below the surface within VALBHS facility, a qualified Principal Archaeologist will oversee implementation of the MOA and attachments thereto. The Principal Archaeologist shall manage the Native American monitoring rotation on behalf of VALBHS. One Native American monitor will be scheduled each day of earthmoving and that position will rotate among the local four tribal organizations.

**REFERENCES:**

1. Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) among the Veterans Affairs Long Beach Healthcare System, The California State Historic Preservation Officer (SHIPO) and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation Regarding Facility Improvements at Long Beach Medical Center, Long Beach, California.
2. MOA-Treatment Plan – Attachment B.
3. MOA-Plan of Action - Attachment C.

### **CONTACT INFORMATION ON THE FOUR LOCAL INDIAN TRIBES**

<b>Group</b>	<b>Email</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Last</b>
Gabrielino Band of Mission Indians-Kizh Nation	<a href="mailto:gabrielinoindians@yahoo.com">gabrielinoindians@yahoo.com</a>	Andrew	Salas
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